

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The preprocessed input image is then provided to the classification assembly 54 at each of a plurality of feature extractors 610, 612, 614, where feature extractor 614 represents an  $N^{\text{th}}$  classifier grid model and  $N$  is an integer greater than one. The feature extractors 610, 612, 614 extract feature data representing the input image for associated classifiers 620, 622, 624, where classifier ~~614~~ 624 represents an  $N^{\text{th}}$  classifier and  $N$  is an integer greater than one. In the illustrated embodiment, each classifier represents a particular output class. A given feature extractor (e.g., 610) utilizes a classifier grid model representing its associated output class. It will be appreciated, however, that the classifiers 620, 622, 624 can be configured to have multiple associated classes. In such a case, the grid model for each classifier would be configured to represent multiple output classes.